

FISCAL NOTE

HB 2511 - SB 3966

March 2, 2008

SUMMARY OF BILL: Prohibits the Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) from taking any investigative or enforcement actions based solely on information obtained from an anonymous source unless such action is deemed to protect the public from any imminent danger to human health and safety. Requires TDEC to develop a statement form for complaints. Such form would be available to the public upon request and posted on the department's website. Provides a Class A misdemeanor for providing false information on such a form. Prohibits the firing of an employee based upon the filling of such statements.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Revenue – Not Significant

Increase State Expenditures – Exceeds \$180,000/

Tennessee Petroleum Underground Storage Tank Fund

Increase Local Revenue – Not Significant

Increase Local Expenditures – Not Significant

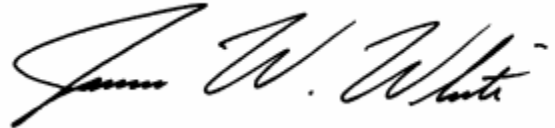
Other Fiscal Impact – Some of the complaints filed with the Underground Storage Tank (UST) Division are referred to TDEC by the federal Environmental Protection Agency. Failure to respond to such complaints, regardless of the basis of the complaint, could jeopardize approximately \$7,500,000 in federal funding to TDEC.

Assumptions:

- At least two of the approximately 18 complaints to the UST Division each year are anonymous and the violation results in the contamination of groundwater.
- The estimated cleanup cost for two such instances is estimated to exceed \$180,000.
- There will not be a sufficient number of Class A misdemeanor prosecutions for state or local governments to experience any significant increase in revenue or expenditures.

CERTIFICATION:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "James W. White". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "J".

James W. White, Executive Director

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